

• COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Directors Victor H. Rossetti, second from left, and John H. Ramboz, second from right, are presented their 25-year service pins by Board Chairman Joseph Jensen, right, while General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, left, looks on. The two Directors are the first two men in the history of the District to complete 25 years of service on the District Board. They were honored, along with 28 employees, at a luncheon in the Statler Hotel on October 14.

Twenty-Five Years' Service Honored at Statler Luncheon

Two members of the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors and 28 District employees were honored at a luncheon in the Statler Hotel on October 14 for having completed 25 years of service with the District. Nearly 200 persons, including District Board members and former Board members and their wives, and members of the District staff and their wives, were in attendance at the luncheon.

The two Directors being honored were John H. Ramboz and Victor H. Rossetti. They are the first two men in the history of the District to complete 25 years of

service on the District Board of Directors.

Robert B. Diemer, District General Manager and Chief Engineer, paid high tribute to the employees who will have completed 25 years of service between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1958. A previous luncheon honored 19 employees who completed 25 years of service prior to January 1, 1957.

"The efficient and loyal service of these employees has made my many years with the District a privilege and I am proud to be one of them," Mr. Diemer said. "The District has been fortunate, indeed, to have had the services of these fine men and women down through the years. They have played an important part in the growth of the

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Underground Basin Replenishment Urged

Urgent need for the rapid replenishment of dangerously depleted underground water basins in Southern California was emphasized this month by Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer of The Metropolitan Water District.

Speaking before the annual convention of the California Section of the American Water Works Association at the Ambassador Hotel on October 29, Mr. Diemer said that these basins, which constitute one of the best methods of storing reserve water supplies, have been dangerously lowered due to excessive pumping.

Mr. Diemer stated that since the Colorado River Aqueduct was placed in operation in 1941 many cities and areas in the Metropolitan Water District have continued to draw heavily upon their local underground sources.

"Had these cities and areas made use of the facilities of the Metropolitan Water District and its Colorado River Aqueduct, the underground basins would not have been depleted to their present dangerous state," Mr. Diemer declared.

He pointed out that the situation can be remedied through spreading and injection of Colorado River water into the basins and said that a program of replenishing these basins in Los Angeles and Orange counties is now getting under way.

In outlining a \$200 million construction program now being carried forward on the Metropolitan Water District's aqueduct system, Mr. Diemer said that the main aqueduct system will be brought to its full ultimate capacity early in 1960, and will be able to provide the water required to replenish underground water basins on the coastal plain.

"The present use of water in Los Angeles is 174 gallons per capita per

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COLORADO RIVER
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New Building Site Approved By District Board of Directors

Preference for a building site located at Sunset Boulevard and Beaudry Avenue in Los Angeles as the location of a permanent office headquarters of the Metropolitan Water District was voted on October 14 by the District's Board of Directors. The Board voted to approve the Sunset and Beaudry site in preference to a site located within the District's Garvey Reservoir grounds in Monterey Park.

Studies relating to the selection of a permanent office headquarters site for the District have been under way for more than ten years.

After expressing its preference for the Sunset and Beaudry site the Board of Directors voted to authorize the institution of condemnation proceedings for the acquisition of the property.

The office headquarters would serve as the administrative and engineering center for the entire Metropolitan Water District, which extends from Santa Monica to the Mexican border, and includes 83 incorporated cities and large unincorporated areas with a total population of about 7,000,000.

The District's present headquarters are in rented office space at Broadway and Third Streets in Los Angeles.

Replenishment Urged

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day," Mr. Diemer said. "One acre-foot of water will serve five persons for one year. On this basis, it is estimated that the safe long-time yield from local water supplies, plus the imported supplies from the Los Angeles Owens River Aqueduct and the Metropolitan Water District's Colorado River Aqueduct, will provide for a total population of 10,000,000 persons, or sufficient for the needs of the



DIRECTOR WALTER H. LONG
 5 Years on District Board

Director Walter H. Long, who represents Burbank on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District, became eligible for his 5-year service pin on October 13.

Mr. Long is President of the Surety Bond Building and Loan Association and has held that position since 1951. He has been associated with the firm since its founding in 1928.

He is a past president of the Burbank Chamber of Commerce and of the Community Chest and is a member of the Elks and the Masonic Lodge. Director Long is a native of Pennsylvania but has lived in Southern California since childhood. He is a graduate of Occidental College.

On the District Board, Mr. Long is a member of the Engineering and Operations Committee and of the Legal and Claims Committee.

coastal portions of the five southern counties for about 17 years in the future. The State Division of Water Resources recognized this fact by indicating the first delivery of Feather River water into Southern California, from the proposed Feather River Aqueduct, to take place in 1975.

"In recent years the overdraft has exceeded 300,000 acre-feet per year. During the first five years of operation, from 1941 to 1946, District deliveries averaged 27,000 acre-feet per year. However, for the past four years all water has been imported that can be delivered with existing facilities—roughly at the rate of 400,000 acre-feet per year—and this rate has not been sufficient to meet all needs including water requested for spreading to replenish underground

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For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed October, 1958, covering District operations for September, 1958.)

Colorado River—The water surface of Lake Mead dropped 3.40 feet to elevation 1195.57 feet above sea level and usable storage decreased 488,000 acre-feet to 23,326,000 acre-feet on September 30, 1958. The discharge at Hoover Dam for September averaged 13,000 cubic feet per second as compared with 14,800 in August 1958 and with 13,200 cfs in September 1957. Discharge at Parker Dam in September averaged 12,000 cfs.

Pumping and Power—Hayfield plant delivered 46,326 acre-feet during September. Pumping was continuous on a 4-pump basis throughout the month except for 39 hours, 7 minutes, during which operations were on a 2-pump basis while repairs were being made. The Parker-Davis system was continuously in parallel with the District system while the Edison system and Hoover power plant were out of parallel 8 minutes and 1055 minutes respectively. The District's share of Parker energy for September was 23,748,810 kwhrs, all of which was used by the District system. Peak deliveries to and from Edison Co. where 88,000 kw and 125,000 kw respectively.

Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant—Colorado River water was softened from 303 ppm of hardness to 165 ppm at an average rate of 362 cfs during September. Daily rate of flow varied from a maximum of 427 cfs to a minimum of 255.

Construction—Work on Schedules 76SC, 77SC and 78SC (Lower Feeder) the contract is 59% complete; Schedules SD8P and SD9P (San Diego Aqueduct) the contract is 51% complete; Schedules SD10P and SD11SC (Second San Diego Aqueduct) the contract is 29% complete.

Pumping Plant Expansion—The contract on the installation of Pumping Units 7, 8 and 9 is 31% complete; Pump Delivery Line No. 3 is 81% complete.

Siphon work on the main aqueduct (Earp to Whitewater)—Contracts 669 and 672—is 90% complete. On Contract 669—Freda, Pinto, Eagle Lift and West Eagle siphons were completed and accepted.

Purchasing—Total expenditures covered by 435 purchase orders and 8 agreements amounted to \$102,957.



DIRECTOR JOHN H. RAMBOZ
25 Years on District Board

Director John H. Ramboz, on September 29 of this year, became the first Director in the history of the Metropolitan Water District to complete 25 years of public service as a member of the District Board of Directors.

Mr. Ramboz is a native son of Los Angeles. He was born on a ranch near what is now 9th and Hill Streets. This event took place, he says, several years before the election of William McKinley as President of the United States.

He attended the public schools in this city and entered the banking business in 1903 with the Merchants National Bank of Los Angeles where he remained for 25 years, 15 of which he was Vice President and Cashier.

In 1928 he established his own business as a financial and business counselor. During the 23 years of his career as a business counselor he was, for a time, President of the Ambassador Hotel Company. During the succeeding years he became the trustee or director of scores of building corporations and business firms.

Also during this period he served as President, Vice President or Director of the following companies: J. W. Robinson Company, El Cortez Hotel Company, Globe Grain and Milling Company, Constance Hotel Company, Wilshire Company, Park-Wilshire Company, Gaylord Apartment Company, Chester Williams Building Company, Consolidated Building Company, Roosevelt Building Company, 810 South Spring Building Company, Banks-Huntley Building Company, Associated Realty Building Company, and the Fullerton Oil Company.

Mr. Ramboz was appointed to the District Board of Directors as the representative of San Marino in 1933. He served

Service Awards Luncheon

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Metropolitan Water District," he declared.

Tributes to Directors Ramboz and Rossetti for their long years of distinguished public service on the District Board were expressed by Board Chairman Joseph Jensen.

In commending the two Directors for their contributions to the building of the District and its great Aqueduct, Chairman Jensen pointed out that all members of the District Board serve without salary.

"Twenty-five years without pay may seem like a pretty thankless task but it really isn't," Chairman Jensen said. "The people of Southern California know that they owe John Ramboz and Victor Rossetti a debt of gratitude they can never pay for the outstanding contributions they have made to the growth and prosperity of this area," Mr. Jensen declared.

Chairman Jensen pointed out that both men have played other significant roles in the development of the Southwest.

District Chairman Jensen said that both men had served, at one time, as Chairman of the District Board and that both are now active on important Board Committees. He expressed the hope that Directors Ramboz and Rossetti would remain as members of the District Board for many years to come.

District employees who were honored and were present at the luncheon, their classification and the date they completed or will complete 25 years of service are as follows:

1957

Ruth K. Thiers, Senior Secretary, Legal Division, January 1, retired September 17, 1957

Hortense Helgesen, Treasurer, May 1, retired September 30, 1957

Dorothy A. Goddard, Public Relations Secretary, June 8

Ethel V. Lockhart, Right of Way Agent, October 16

Estelle A. McGee, Assistant Purchasing Agent, December 30

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as Vice Chairman of the Board in 1947 and was Chairman in 1948. He is presently Chairman of the Board's Land Committee and a member of the Finance and Insurance Committee.

He retired from active business affairs in 1950 but still remains a member of the Board of Directors of several large building companies as well as a member of the District Board.



DIRECTOR VICTOR H. ROSSETTI
25 Years on District Board

Director Victor H. Rossetti is the second Director to complete 25 years of service on the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors. It was 25 years ago, October 13, 1933, that he joined the District Board as one of the representatives of the City of Los Angeles.

Mr. Rossetti was born in Virginia City, Nevada, on February 19, 1877, and spent the early part of his youth in that lusty mining community. He had his heart set on a career in banking and, at the age of 16, with his parents' reluctant consent, he made his way to San Francisco. In a short time he landed a job as office boy for the Wells Fargo Bank of San Francisco at the magnificent salary of \$20 a month.

Between his duties as office boy he studied everything he could find on the subject of banking and economics and in 1905 he was made Assistant Cashier. He remained in that capacity until 1911 when he was invited to come to Los Angeles as Cashier of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank.

He retained the cashiership for 14 years and in 1917 he became Vice President. The following year he was named to the Board of Directors of the Bank and in 1931 he was elected President of the oldest financial institution in Southern California.

In 1953 he was made Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank and remained in this capacity until 1956 when Farmers and Merchants merged with Security First National Bank. He was then named to the post of Honorary Chairman of the Security First Board, the position he now holds. This year he celebrated his 65th year in banking.

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District employees, who will have completed 25 years of service between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1958, were honored at a luncheon at the Statler Hotel on October 28. Shown above are 21 of the 28 employees who were honored. Left to right the ladies are: Dorothy Goddard, Marian Crews, Ethel Lockhart, Hortense Helgesen, Agnes Dunning, Estelle McGee, Ruth Thiers and Viola Crutcher. The men, left to right are: Chester Olson, Tom Cain, Joe Reider, Gene Reynolds, Sam Thomason, Robert Skinner, Harold Church, Floyd Day, LeRoy Costello, Edward Clarke, William Merrithew, Paul Winn and Rufus Fee. Also present at the luncheon but not in the picture were Fred Richards and Lars Christiansen. Five other employees being honored were unable to attend the luncheon.

25 Years' Service

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1958

Lars E. Christiansen, Superintendent, Aqueduct Maintenance, January 12

Agnes M. Dunning, Secretary to the General Manager and Chief Engineer, January 16

William S. Merrithew, Distribution Engineer, February 10

Marian Crews, Insurance Clerk, March 6

Robert A. Skinner, Assistant Chief Engineer, March 6

Chester G. Olson, Treasurer, March 7

Edward A. Clarke, Controller, March 27

Harold R. Church, Chief of Party, O & M Construction, April 3

Rufus S. Fee, Public Relations Representative, April 21

Samuel B. Thomason, Lineman, June 12

Tom J. Cain, Assistant Engineer, July 5

Eugene V. Reynolds, Superintendent of Transportation, August 1

Joseph A. Reider, Superintendent, Transmission and Telephone Lines, August 22

LeRoy G. Costello, Maintenance Man, September 6

William P. Winn, Senior Engineer, September 21

Fred L. Richards, Maintenance Mechanic, October 18

Floyd T. Day, Chief of Party, Construction Field Engineering, December 18

Also being honored but unable to be at the luncheon were:

1957

John T. Bone, Maintenance Mechanic, February 29

1958

Owen L. Crawley, Division Foreman, O & M Distribution, January 12

John L. Powell, Foreman, Mechanical Division, Softening Plant, March 15, retired September 22, 1958

Harry T. Swango, System Operator, September 20

Edith L. Mallery, Senior Accountant, December 6

Viola Crutcher, Personnel and Information Secretary, who was unable to attend the previous luncheon, was also among those honored. She became eligible for her 25 year pin on May 12, 1955.

Albert W. McKinlay, District Controller at the time of his death on July 11, completed 25 years of service on January 4, 1957.

Director Rossetti

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Mr. Rossetti is also a Director of a number of other business organizations including the Southern Pacific Company, Garret Corporation, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Los Angeles Soap Company and he is Chairman of the Board of the Founders Insurance Company.

Just prior to being named to the District Board, Mr. Rossetti was chairman of the Los Angeles Colorado River Aqueduct Citizens' Committee which made many important recommendations to the District Board regarding construction of the Aqueduct. He served as Chairman of the District Board in 1947 and is currently a member of the Board's Finance and Insurance Committee and of the Land Committee.

1975," Mr. Diemer declared.

"Southern California has been slow to realize that something should be done to save the underground basins," Mr. Diemer said. "The importance of these basins on the coastal plain of Southern California was recognized fully by Frank E. Weymouth, the first General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water District, in his report entitled 'A Summary of the Metropolitan Water District Aqueduct Situation,' submitted to the Board of Directors on (Continued on Page Five)

Replenishment Urged

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basins," Mr. Diemer said.

"With the completion of District facilities in 1960, the District will be able to deliver into Southern California about 1,200,000 acre-feet of water annually. District estimates indicate this to be sufficient to supply the District needs until



Controller Edward A. Clarke, center, and Laureate White and Don A. Yapp, both of the Controller's office, are shown with some of the bonds of the \$18,000,000 bond issue sold by the District on October 14 to a syndicate headed by the California Bank. Each of the bonds are in the denomination of \$1000. The photo was taken just prior to the signing of the bonds by Controller Clarke.

\$18,000,000 in Waterworks Bonds Sold by District Board

The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District on October 14 authorized the sale of \$18,000,000 in Waterworks Bonds, Series III, to a syndicate headed by the California Bank at a gross interest rate of 3.10 percent, it was announced by Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the District Board.

The successful bid, which was one of three opened by the District Board at a public session, also offered a premium of \$75,996, producing a net interest rate of 3.03505 percent, Edward A. Clarke, District Controller, said.

The \$18,000,000 bond issue consists of 18,000 coupon bonds in the denomination of \$1000 each, dated November 1, 1958. They will mature in consecutive numerical order in the amount of \$1,500,000 on November 1 of each of the years 1959 to 1970, inclusive.

Revenue derived from the sale of the bonds will be used to help carry forward the District's \$200 million expansion program to bring the Colorado River Aqueduct to its full, ultimate delivery capacity of one billion gallons of water a day to meet the growing need for additional water in Metropolitan Water District cities and areas, according to Board Chairman Jensen.

"This is the third issue of such short-term bonds to be sold by the District under the provisions of Proposition 'W' which was approved by the voters at the June 5, 1956, election," Mr. Jen-

sen said.

He pointed out that while these bonds are General Obligation Bonds of the District, supported by all its resources, the interest and principal of the bonds will be repaid primarily from revenues and annexation fees which are pledged to the District and will be paid into its treasury during the next 25 to 30 years. Because of these anticipated revenues no increase in taxes for the financing of the bonds is contemplated.

Replenishment Urged

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July 13, 1931.

"In the course of his report Mr. Weymouth stated:

"Not many years ago bountiful supplies of ground water were available almost everywhere at reasonable depths. Over an area of 315 square miles water flowed from wells under artesian pressure. Artesian flow has now practically disappeared, and water levels have dropped everywhere. Levels along the coast have been pumped down below sea level, causing salt water to flow landward, and wells in the foothill regions have been lowered to bedrock. There is evidently less water in the ground now than there was a few years ago, and levels are dropping more rapidly than ever before.

"To whatever extent overdraft is due to a temporary condition of drought, it is permissible. These underground basins are one of the principal assets of Southern California, and it is entirely proper that they should be used to equalize the fluctuating water supply. But they are now being drawn down too deeply. Supported by an inflow which will keep them sufficiently well filled in normal times, these underground reservoirs are valuable insurance against temporary failure of other sources. Empty, they are a detriment to proper utilization of normal local supplies."



Pictured above is work underway on the part of the Second San Diego Aqueduct being built and financed by the Metropolitan Water District. Here a Caterpillar is pulling a watering truck up a steep grade near the southerly end of the portion of the line being constructed by the MWD. This work is located east of Fallbrook in San Diego County. Note orchards in background.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Ray Whaples, Administrative Assistant at Gene Village, was married to Ruby Lynn on October 1 in the New Frontier Chapel in Las Vegas. Mrs. Ackerson was Matron of Honor and Tom Adams was Best Man. The happy couple took a short trip to San Diego before returning to Gene.

* * *

Four District employees and their wives have returned from a highly successful elk hunt in the wilds of Wyoming. Now enjoying delicious elk roasts and steaks are Cal and Jean Twiggs of Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant, and Bud and Lucille Graham, Ed and Dorothy Hines and Richard and Marcia Faulhaber, all of Gene Village. The four District couples, in company with some friends, brought out four elk for the six licenses held by the members of the hunting party.

* * *

Frances Gardner, Switchboard Operator, is deeply grateful for the many expressions of sympathy she received from District employees upon the recent death of her father, Demaree Gardner, who passed away October 1. Frances flew home to Louisville, Kentucky to attend the funeral.

Don Sullivan, Station Operator at Iron Mountain Pumping Plant, has been transferred to the Softening Plant where he will work for Al Preston. Fred Rush, Utility Man at Gene Village, will replace Don at Iron Mountain.

* * *

Mary Sommerville, Telephone Relief Operator at the Softening Plant, is recuperating at Pomona Valley Hospital after having one of her arms badly mauled by a pet lion. The lion, the pet of a friend, seized Mary's arm in his teeth when she reached into the cage to pet him and refused to let go until he was shot to death by his owner.

* * *

Laura Rae Lamm, Utility Clerk in the Los Angeles office, became the bride of Marlin B. Janssen on Sunday, October 19, in the Temple Baptist Church in Norwalk. Laura is the daughter of Benny Lamm, Foreman in the District garage.

* * *

Square dancers at Hayfield hosted the Kaiser Mines Merry Miners square dance group in the recreation hall on October 11. Approximately 35 people were in attendance and all enjoyed the dancing, coffee, sandwiches and cake.

Plans for the District's Christmas party are moving merrily along. The party will be held at the Pomona Valley Country Club on December 19 and all District employees are invited. Tickets for 3 drawings are being sold. The prizes include a camera, a beautiful clock and an electric frying pan. Proceeds will help finance the cost of an orchestra and other incidental costs of the party.

* * *

Pat Fikel, former Utility Clerk at the Softening Plant, was married to David Styris on August 16 in Reno, Nevada. Pat and her husband are now making their home in North Las Vegas.

* * *

Janice Elliot, a Telephone Operator at the Softening Plant, became the bride of Jay Gooding in Las Vegas on September 20. Janice is now working in the office, assisting Marian Shafer with the payroll and other work.

* * *

More than 30 people attended one of the first fall parties in the recreation hall at Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant on September 9. A potluck dinner, games and dancing highlighted the evening.



Eugene V. (Gene) Reynolds, Superintendent of Transportation, retired from the District on October 31 after more than 25 years of service. Gene's many District friends presented him with a gold Hamilton wrist watch and a Thermador air conditioner which he plans to install in his house trailer in Palm Springs. Proof that Gene is quite a ladies' man is shown in the photo above taken at the time of his farewell party. Left to right are Frieda Bonelli, Fannie Mae Fink, Dorothy Goddard, Gene, Grace Wyatt, Ethel Lockhart, Marian Crews, Agnes Dunning, Viola Crutcher, Edith Mallory and Estelle McGee.